

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 17, 2004. Claims 32-39, 48-55, 87-94 and 126-136 are presented for examination, of which Claims 32, 36, 48, 87, 126, 130 and 134-136 are in independent form. Claims 1-31, 40-47, 56-86, and 95-125 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and Claims 134-136 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 32-36, 38, 39, 48-55, 87-94 and 126-133 have been amended as to matters of form only; no claim recitation has been narrowed by any amendment. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that Claims 32-39, 48-55, 87-94, and 126-133 include allowable subject matter; while the Office Action lists these claims as being objected to for depending from rejected claims, it is noted that in fact none of them depends from a rejected claim. Rather, Claims 32, 36, 38, 87, 126 and 130- are in independent form, and the others of the listed claims are dependent only from one or another of these independent claims. Thus, each of these claims is believed to be in condition for allowance.

In allowed Claim 32, the recited first and second information processing apparatus may be read, by way of example only, on server 102 and client 103a or 103b shown in Fig. 33.¹ An example of the processing executed by those apparatuses is illustrated in Fig. 34 (including steps S3402, S3411, S3412, S3418).

New Claim 134 is directed to an information processing apparatus that

¹ It is to be understood of course that the claim scope is not limited by the details of any embodiment that may be referred to herein.

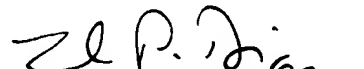
corresponds to the first information processing apparatus recited in Claim 32, and the external information processing apparatus referred to in Claim 134 corresponds to the second information processing apparatus recited in Claim 32. Claims 135 and 136 are a method claim and a memory-medium claim, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 134. All three claims are believed to be clearly allowable for the same reasons as is Claim 32.

A Claim To Priority and a certified copy of the priority document for this application were submitted on May 17, 2000, as evidenced by a returned receipt postcard bearing the stamp of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, a copy of which is attached hereto. Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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